

Please replace the second paragraph beginning on page 17 and continuing on page 18 as follows:

a6  
- The skin-contactable sheets 5 in Fig. 1 may be formed an elastically stretchable hydrophobic fibrous nonwoven fabric obtained by the melt blown or spun bond process. Component fiber of such elastic stretchable nonwoven fabric may be stretchable fibers may be stretchable fibers obtained by melting and spinning thermoplastic elastomer resin. The elastically stretchable fibrous nonwoven fabric may be a composite nonwoven fabric consisting of a hydrophobic fibrous nonwoven fabric made of thermoplastic elastomer resin fiber and a hydrophobic fibrous nonwoven fabric comprising crimped fiber which is obtained by melting and spinning thermoplastic synthetic resin such as polypropylene, polyethylene or polyester bonded to at least one surface of the hydrophobic fibrous nonwoven fabric.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

a7  
Sub B1  
1. (Amended) A disposable undergarment comprising:  
a skin-contactable surface;  
a non skin-contactable surface opposed to said skin-contactable surface;  
a liquid-impervious base sheet contoured by longitudinally opposite end portions extending in a transverse direction and transversely opposite side edge portions extending in a longitudinal direction;  
a liquid-absorbent panel attached to said base sheet and lying on said skin-contactable surface; and  
skin-contacting sheets attached under extension in said longitudinal direction to said skin-contactable surface of said undergarment so as to cover said liquid-absorbent panel, said skin-contactable sheets being stretchable in said longitudinal direction and substantially liquid-impervious, said skin-contactable sheets having fixed surface areas secured to said longitudinally

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opposite end portions and free surface areas extending between said fixed surface areas, which free surface areas are not fixed to said undergarment so as to be spaced upward from said liquid-absorbent panel as said undergarment curves in said longitudinal direction with its skin-contactable surface inside,

said skin-contactable surface of said undergarment being provided with regions in which said skin-contactable sheets are absent so that said skin-contactable surface inclusive of said liquid-absorbent panel is partially exposed in said regions in which said skin-contactable sheets are absent.

Please amend Claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) The disposable undergarment according to Claim 1, wherein said skin-contactable sheets comprise a pair of belt-shaped strips spaced apart from and opposed to each other in said transverse direction and respectively extending along said transversely opposite side edge portions of said undergarment in said longitudinal direction so that said skin-contactable surface inclusive of said liquid-absorbent panel is partially exposed between the skin-contactable sheets.

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The disposable undergarment according to Claim 1, further comprising a pair of substantially liquid-impervious leak-barrier cuffs spaced apart from and opposed to each other in said transverse direction and respectively extending along said transversely opposite side edge portions of said undergarment, said leak-barrier cuffs being disposed between said base sheet and said skin-contactable sheets and attached under extension in said longitudinal direction to said skin-contactable surface of said undergarment, said leak-barrier cuffs having fixed side edge portions secured to said transversely opposite side edge portions of said undergarment and extending in said longitudinal direction, free side edge portions being stretchable in said